TL 1822-20

2nd June 1994

STATEMENT MADE BY JOHN OTTO ONDAWANE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE FREE PAPUA MOVEMENT (OPM)

Ladies and gentlemen,

First of all, on behalf of the colonised people of West Papua, I representatives of the Free Papua Movement (OPM) would like to express my warmest gratitude to the organising committee for giving me this opportunity to address this solidarity message in this historical conference in supporting national liberation struggles of the East Timorese people.

All peoples have rights to self-determination.

This means basically that the colonised and repressed peoples in the world in our region and in actual case in East timor, have absolute rights to self-determination and independence.

It means that the presence of Indonesia occupation forces in the soil of East Timor is illegal and a crime against humanity. Therefore, the military regime in Jakarta should be prosecuted under the international laws.

Additionally it also means that the people and governments in the world and in Asia-Pacific region have a moral duty in defending the human rights and supporting the EAst Timorese people.

In this respect, as a member of the UN, the government in ASEAN countries should be objective and apply these laws accordingly in favour of the majority interests of the people of East Timor, instead of denying political rights for the purpose of defending a few coins and dollars.

Ladies and gentlemen,

In the beginning of 1975, the people of East Timor believe that with the proclamation of independence under the leadership of the Fretilin , the country will end 500 years Portuguese colonialism and then regain the respect and dignity that were denied for centuries, that the people will enjoy peace and justice, democracy and equality in a new-born democratic republic.

However, these hope were destroyed. The military regime in Jakarta annexed the country and forcibly incorporated into Indonesia and become its 27th province. An act against the International laws and conventions.

One should ask what rights Indonesia has over East Timor Logically, there is no appropriate answer that can legitimize the brutal act. The Maubere people has no any historical, ethnic, cultural links with Indonesia.

Since East Timor became the new colony of Indonesia, human rights abuses rapidly spread over the country as in all colonies of Indonesia.

The human rights abuses in East Timor is not an internal matter. With the bloody human slaughter that happened in Dili, 1991, where 200 innocent civilians lost their lives, the illegitimate and inhuman rule of Indonesia was shown to the world.

It is importance to point out here that Dili massacre is only one part of many military atrocities that was imposed on the people in East Timor. The "Immigration" program and family program against the people in the country under scheme of population transfer in the entire Indonesian archipelago were introduced in 1967. Their land have been confiscated and the democratic movement have been violated.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

This conference makes us aware about situation in East Timor. However, one of the forgotten countries that the Indonesian government committed human rights violations is in West Papua which was the first territory invaded by Indonesia. It is the western part of New Guinea Island, has 1.5 million Papuans-Melanesian ethnic group and majority being Christians.

Historically, West Papua has always been a separate nation even during the Dutch administration.

Since Indonesia invaded the country, human rights abuses have have been committed and have increased. Foremost of these abuses is the transmigration program - funded by the International Monetary Fund. This policy is threatening to make the West Papuans a minority in their own land.

These systematic human rights abuses can be pointed out that:
Firstly, the colonial regime imposes cultural imperialism on the entire society where the Papuans values systems are strictly prohibited to develop and preserve it. The promotor of Papuans culture, Mr Arnold Ab-the director of the Department of Anthropology at the university of Cendrawasih, Jayapura, Director of the folk music-Mambesak was brutally murdered in 1984 because his songs encouraged Papuan nationalism.

Secondly, our traditional land have been confiscated and given to immigrant ad foreign companies and illegally exploited and plundered our natural resources such as oil, minerals and forests.

Thirdly, hundred and thousand innocent people have been forcibly put into prisons, detainees, concentration camps, resettlement camps and 130 of political prisoners have been forcibly moved to isolated camps in Kalisosok, Tanggerang and Cipinang in Java, an act against international laws that guarantees the rights visit by his or her relatives and family.

Fourthly, apartheid system has systematically imposed and operated in the country, where discrimination, corruption, social injustice and violation of democratic freedom have effected human freedom, where internal pass-system is only secure matter if a Papuan escape from arrest or imprisonment.

Therefore, if we are serious in concerning human rights and the issue of self -determination, the people and governments in our region should be reeducate on the subject of democracy. Towards this direction, the idea of regionalisation of the issue self-determination and human rights are important.

For these obvious reasons, our people pledge our total solidarity with the people of East Timor in their just struggle against Indonesian colonialism.

We also express our solidarity with liberation movements, democratic and progressive movement within Indonesia.

We also solidarity with democratic, liberation movement from Philippines and the entire peoples in Asia- Pacific region.

Finally, we are certain that this conference has gave us greater encourage and valuable inspiration.

Victory of East Timor is our victory
The struggle continuous
Victory is certain

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PROFILE
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